

CLASSIFICATION OFFICE DECISION

Title of publication: received_299546024140406.gif

Other known title(s): Not stated

OFLC ref: 1800572.003

Medium: Video File

Publisher: Not stated

Country of origin: Not stated

Language: Not applicable

Applicant: New Zealand Defence Force Military Police

Classification:	Objectionable except if the availability of the publication is restricted to persons who have attained the age of 18 years.
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Excisions: No excisions recommended

Descriptive note: None

Display conditions: None

Date of entry in Register: 20 March 2019

Date of direction to issue a label: No direction to issue a label has been issued

Date of notice of decision: 19 March 2019

	Components	Running time
Timed component(s):	received_299546024140406.gif	
Total running time:		

Summary of reasons for decision:

The image file is a GIF depicting a partially naked Lisa Simpson twerking. The GIF is intended to be playful and humorous, the humour deriving from the activity being directly at odds with the way this character is normally portrayed as a conservative and prudish child. This gives the GIF the tone of unexpected taboo-breaking humour. It is clearly not intended to be sexually arousing, nor is it likely to strongly appeal to those with a sexual interest in children. The context of transgressive humour limits its impact significantly. However, the way it sexualises a beloved child television character is likely to be shocking and confusing to children and young persons. Society perceives harm in exposing them to images of this type before they are developmentally ready to process it. Adults are

presumed to have the necessary maturity to contextualise the taboo-breaking humour involved and may well regard the image as being in poor taste. The restriction to adults interferes with the right to freedom of expression affirmed by the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990, but is a reasonable limitation on that right in order to prevent injury to the public good.